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Carmena, Lena.
Carmena

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CARMENA

By Lena Carmena - 1963

CARMENA, a Castilian surname said to originate from the town of the same name (2,000 inhabitants) in the judicial district of Toledo in Spain. The postmaster at Carmena wrote that the name Carmena was given the town because there was once a woolen mill, known as the "Carmena Factory".

My Spanish-English dictionary gives these definitions:
Carmelina, Paco - wool
Carmenar, to cord wool

The Carmena family however, comes from nearby Anover de Tajo, as proved by Church records.

Manuel Galvez, a stamp dealer in Madrid, now dead, put me in touch with Alberto Diaz Carmena, a stamp collector, who at different times has given me information concerning our name. In our early correspondence, he had this to say:

"The surname Carmena, outside of Anover de Tajo, where nearly all of us bear it once or twice, is little used in the rest of Spain, so necessarily those who have it as our second surname (that of the mother) term ourselves the Carmena family."

(In this connection I wish to add that you do not find any Carmenas listed in telephone books in the big cities of the United States, so I will say almost to a certainty our Carmena family here is the only one in the United States.)

On April 27, 1950, Alberto Diaz Carmena wrote:

"The fame of the name Carmena finds its origin in the very illustrious house of Aguilar, and in its branches based on Carmena (Toledo) which dominions ruling families added their surname to the basic name of Carmena in order to make it a permanent part of the family name of future descendants. In their turn, the family Aguilar are descended from the imperial or royal house of Germany (of the middle ages) and their ancestral fame is greater than the family of Velasco, admirals of Castile, as is shown in their respective designs of the family's coat-of-arms." (Copies of this coat-of-arms have been sent me by Alberto Diaz Carmena and Manuel Galvez mentioned above.)

In letter of July 14, 1950, Alberto Diaz Carmena wrote further:

"In its ascendancy, the most notable members were the dukes of Estrada, whose progenitor was Grimaldo, duke of Brabante. -- (See Motto page 2)

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Motto:

The Goth of Germany
Cousin of the emperor
Who brought the eagle to Spain
and in a field of gold (it) is bathed
(It) bears black among its colors."

Joseph W. Carmena, Jr., was in Anover de Tajo, Spain, on March 20, 1963, accompanied by a friend who also spoke English. This friend persuaded the priest of the church there (Gregorio Miguel) to go through the old baptismal records and they obtained the following data concerning our family line in Spain. This data (baptismal records) I feel are the crowning efforts of my search of the Carmena family. (Recently Father Miguel sent me three pictures of the church at Anover de Tajo; one of the exterior-the old church was bombed during the Spanish Civil War; one of the interior and the third which he says "is the Baptismal Font where your ancestors received the Sacrament of Baptism.") I will also add here that while in Spain Joseph W. Carmena, Jr., visited Alberto Diaz Carmena at his home in Toledo. He found him to be very cordial and friendly, and he was so glad to see a relative from the United States.

CARMENA, Domingo. This is the first birth recorded of a Carmena. He was baptised on February 10, 1516, and shown to be the son of Anton Carmena.

CARMENA, Antonio. This is the next name, but the records were so badly worn, further information could not be obtained and this condition of the books gives a skip of 91 years, before coming to --

CARMENA, Miguel, with a date of 1607. He is the father of

CARMENA, Matias. His record does not give the date of his birth, but he was baptised on March 9, 1642. The name of his mother was Maria Hernandez.

CARMENA, Geronimo, shown in baptismal records as the son of Matias Carmena and Maria Ana Gonzales who were also the parents of Alfonso Cefrino Carmena awarded a title of nobility by King Philip V in 1731. Geronimo was born August 9, 1689, and baptised on the 16th.

CARMENA, Pedro, born June 1, 1738, and baptised on the 9th. His parents were Geronimo Carmena and Maria Ortega.

CARMENA, Romauldo. Born February 6, 1763, and baptised on the 12th. He is the son of Pedro Carmena and Alfonsa Martin. Romauldo according to his baptismal record, was christened by a Monsignor Carmena del Aguila.

Romauldo Carmena is our connecting link with Spain, and our next record of him was obtained from the Catholic Church, at St. Gabriel, Louisiana, at which time the town was called Galvestown where the early Spaniards settled near Baton Rouge. The record obtained of his marriage, and the translation as well as could be made from the poorly written Spanish is about as follows:

"In the year of our Lord, seventeen hundred and ninety-seven, (1797) on the 13th day of February, the three canonical

admonitions having been read on three consecutive days, of which the first was February 2, the second the 5th and the third the 12th of the aforesaid month at the parochial masses without any legitimate impediment resulting, I, de Quintana, Capuchin Missionary and Parochial Priest of this Parish of St. Bernard of this City, Romauldo Carmena, legitimate son of Pedro Carmena and Alfonsa Martin, deceased, natives of Anover de Tajo, and Josefa Morales, legitimate daughter of Jose Morales, deceased, and Antonia Viera, natives of the village of Carrizal in the Canary Islands, residing in the aforesaid Parish, the mutual consent of both having been asked and obtained, I joined them solemnly in matrimony, the following witnesses being present: Diego Diaz, Jose Masias, and Gaspar Tilon and Padrinos (Sponsors) Gaspar Tildo and Catalina Morales, and after celebrating the Mass according to the Rite of our Holy Mother Church, I blessed it and signed it."

The old church at St. Gabriel in which Romauldo and Hosafa were married is still there and was used up to a few years ago, when a new church was erected. I have been told the old church will be preserved.

Romauldo Carmena and Hosafa Morales had four children according to the succession records of their son, Joseph Carmena, on file in the West Feliciana Parish Court House at St. Francisville, La. Their names were given as John, Joseph, Hiram and Errace. It was stated in this succession that in the year 1860 John was their only living child. Hiram and Errace had died previously; also that John Huguet became acquainted with Romauldo and his wife in 1817 and knew them until their deaths; also that Mrs. Mansula M. Lorente had known them since she was seven until their deaths. When Mrs. Lorente first knew them they resided at Galvestown and subsequently at Baton Rouge.

The Spanish West Florida Records, Vol. XIII, page 8, show that on January 15, 1808, Romauldo Carmena owned a lot of ground next to Gilbert Leonard and on January 12, 1810, he was an appraiser of value of carpentry and masonry work on house of Pedro Hernandez, built by Andrew Shaw. The carpenter work was valued at 160 pesos and the brick work at 68 pesos and 4 reales. Romauldo signed for himself and Bautista and Antonio Martinez.

The old records of St. Joseph's Cathedral (now in the Department of Archives and History) show death and burial of Romauldo Carmena on the 14th day of May, 1837 or 1838 and state he was 80 years of age and "buried in the cemetery of this parish." As Romauldo's baptismal record shows him born in 1763 he was 74 or 75 years of age at the time of his death. So far, I have never found anything in the records of his wife, Hosafa and their child Errace.

CARMENA, John. Son of Romauldo Carmena and Hosafa Morales, from whom (so far as I know) we all descended. According to the funeral notice in my possession, John was born May 17, 1808, and died December 14, 1880. He and his wife Merced Arayza are buried in the Catholic Cemetery on Main Street in Baton Rouge. The head stones at their graves are in bad shape and will not last much longer; they were recently cleaned and braced, and of course, look much better. Have been unable to obtain the baptismal record of John Carmena, but the one of his wife, Merced Arayza, was, and reads as follows:

"On January 2, 1820, I who signs, baptised and annointed Merced, who was born on November 23, 1819, legitimate daughter of Manuel Arayza and Mary Sanchez; grandparents by father's side - Santiago Arayza and Catalina Pereira; grandparents by mother's side, Jose Sanchez and Maria Bermudez. The god parents were Antonia de Gras, (1) and Rosalia Arayza.

To ratify this I sign,

'Fr. Juan Brady.'"

- (1) As an item of interest Antonia de Gras the godfather, named above, donated the four corners of ground in front of St. Joseph's Cathedral as hitching spaces for horses. Amiss family are De Gras descendants.

John Carmena and Merced Arraiza (note difference in spelling of Merced's surname here and in her baptismal certificate above. In an old funeral notice I have this name is spelled Aryessa and in later years it was spelled as it sounded "Aricer." None of whom are living to bear the name to-day.) were married February 2, 1837 and this is the record of their marriage as obtained from the Department of Archives and History:

"On February 2, 1837, in my presence, pastor of St. Joseph of Baton Rouge, at the house of Mrs. Sanchez (2) took place the marriage of John Carmena, son of Romauldo Carmena and Josepha Morales, with Miss Merced Arraiza, daughter of Manuel Arraiza and Mary Sanchez, both from the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

"After the publication of the bans in Baton Rouge and marriage license from the judge of the Parish signed Charles Tessier; since we didn't know any civil or canonical impediments, I gave them the nuptial blessing and united with the bond of marriage after having their mutual approval in the presence of the witnesses who sign with myself.

/S/ John Carmena, Merced Arraiza, P. F. Beaupresz,
Cure Jerome Carmena (3) Stephen Henderson,
Jon Wm. Gil."

- (2) Most weddings in those days took place in the home. Mrs. Sanchez was the grandmother of Merced Arraiza.
- (3) Have no record of this Jerome Carmena.

John Carmena homesteaded some land in this Parish of East Baton Rouge just off the Hooper Road which later proved to be school land. By Act 58 of 1858, he, John, was permitted to buy

the land at the rate of \$1.25 per acre. Here John and his wife lived in the house he erected and reared their children. This old home was torn down not too many years ago, but the original tract of land, less 55 acres sold by John, was owned by the heirs of Hiram Carmena until a few years ago when it was sold for a sub-division which at this date has not been developed.

John Carmena bought quite a number of tracts of land in the Parish. He had a cotton gin on his home place.

John and his wife had the following children and the christening dates, marriages and deaths of them should be found in church and parish records:

JOSEPHINE, (Hosafa in Spanish and probably named for her grandmother Hosafa Morales) born 1838, and died in 1911. (4) She married Robert Kennard. No children. Robert Kennard's burial place unknown.

MARY, born in 1842, died in 1906. (4) Married William S. Johnson. (4) No children.

WILLIAM, born in 1844, died in 1883. (5) Married Jane Kennard. They had five children; Eugene, Annie, Mittie, Laura and Leona.

LOUISA, born in 1847 died 1906. (4) Married Anthony Pino. (4) No children.

JOSEPH, born 1848, died in 1872. (5) Unmarried.

JOHN, born in 1850, died 1876. (5) Unmarried.

EMANUEL, born 1852, died 1887. (5) Married Zilla Brown (4) and they had four children; Cora, Walter, Carroll and Alice.

HIRAM, born 1856, died 1932. (4) He married Julia Granary (4) and they had nine children; Nora, John, Lelia, Nettie, Louisa, Elmo, Lawrence, Albert and Elise.

BENJAMIN, born in 1858, died 1904. Married Eva Allen and they were the parents of three children; Walker, Josephine and Stanley. Benjamin and his wife Eva are buried in the Amite Baptist Church Cemetary on the banks of the Amite River in Livingston Parish, near Denham Springs.

SIMEON, born 1862, died 1927. Married Susanna McHugh. They had seven children; Lena, Eddie, Joe, Mattie, Allan, Rita and Robert. Simeon and Susanna are buried in the Shaw-McHugh Cemetery near Zachary, Louisiana.

Most of the years of birth given above were taken from the census record which is shown further on in this write-up.

- (4) Buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Baton Rouge.
- (5) Buried in Catholic Cemetery in Baton Rouge,
on Main Street.

The names of the above children of John and Merced Carmena, conclude my story of the descendancy of the Carmena line. The younger generations can pick up their lines from there.

In reference to the ascendancy of Merced Arraiza, wife of John Carmena, have only got as far back as her maternal great grand parents; they were Juan Sanches and Francisca Masias and Josef Bermudez and Maria Ramires.

The newspaper write-up of the death of Merced Arraiza is as follows:

NECROLOGY, on Saturday, July 22d, 1893, the soul of Mrs. Mercides (note change in given name) Carmena, widow of the late John Carmena, left its earthly body and passed beyond to that Heavenly home where dwells in eternal happiness those chosen and blest by the great Creator. Mrs. Carmena was a daughter of Manuel Aricer (note change in spelling here) and Mary Sanches, residents of Baton Rouge in its early days, and was born in 1820. The members of her family were noted for longevity of life, and it is related that her grandmother, Mrs. John Sanches lived to be 108 years old. (see write-up of her death below.) Mr. and Mrs. John Carmena were married about 50 years ago, spending a happy and prosperous life together until death called her beloved husband hence some years ago. Ten children blessed their union, of whom six are living, viz: Messrs. Hiram, Benjamin, and Simeon Carmena and Mrs. Josephine Kennard, Mrs. Mary Johnson, and Mrs. Louisa Pino; Mrs. Pino being the youngest of the daughters. After the demise of Mr. Carmena, Mrs. Carmena continued to reside at the old homestead in the Third Ward, with those of her children who remained on the place. It was the height of her pleasure to be at home where so many happy days were spent in youth and old age, and seldom could she be prevailed on to leave it more than a day or two at a time. She was a true southern christian lady, whose unaustentatious manners, whose warm hearted sympathy for those in distress and whose many excellent qualities had won the love and veneration of all with whom she came in contact. But she has gone to receive a christian's reward in the realms of the blessed where care and sorrow are unknown."

DEATH OF MRS. JOHN (MARY) SANCHES (as shown by clipping in scrapbook of Mrs. Lucretia Jolly 'an old Baton Rouge resident' now owned by Helen Roy Jolly.)

"In this city on the 11th instant, Mrs. Mary Sanches, aged 110 years. The deceased was by far the oldest inhabitant of this parish. She was born at Galvestown in East Baton Rouge Parish, on the 16th of August 1756, and with a

few exceptions has never in the course of her long and peaceful life been beyond the parish lines. During her life she has witnessed the elevations of the Spanish, French, English, American and Confederate flags over the fort and city of Baton Rouge. Her numerous relatives and friends bear witness to her virtues and thus a long life in a troubled world. She sleeps her last sleep."

Note. No date was shown on this scrapbook clipping, but as she was born in 1756 and was 110 years old (the above clipping shows her age as 108) the year of her death was 1866. I have been told that her daughter, Mary Sanches wife of Emanuel Arraiza, and mother of Mrs. John Carmena also lived to be in the neighborhood of 100 years.

In the flower garden of Mrs. John Carmena at her home on the Hooper Road, green roses were grown, and some from the original bushes are still in some of the Carmena yards. This old antique green rose, is I understand, very rare and can be purchased at only a few places in the United States.

I will now take up some other members of the Carmena line who are related, and will start with Joseph Carmena, brother of John. His baptismal record as obtained from the Department of Archives and History is as follows:

"January 3, 1806: I, Fr. Juan Brady, religious of the Carmelite order and Pastor of this Parish, baptised and annointed a boy who was born on the 8th of last month; son of Romauldo Carmena and Josefa Morales. Paternal grandparents; Pedro Carmena, native of Anover de Tajo, province of Toledo and Alfonza Martin; maternos, Franco Morales and Antonia Biera from the Canary Islands. The boy was given the name Zeferino Josef; his godparents were: Bartolomeo Pacheco and Cataline Pereira who were advised about their spiritual relationship and I signed it.
/S/ Father Juan Brady"

The succession papers of Joseph Carmena, referred to elsewhere here, will consume about two days of reading time. Briefly, he settled in St. Francisville, which at that time was called Bayou Sara, when he was quite a young man. I understand he had a fruit store, and then, as family legend goes, he won a plantation of 1,000 acres and over 100 slaves. This place, then called "Blackwater" afterwards "Belmont" was in the possession of Mrs. Flo Barrow until her death a number of years ago. I had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Barrow and visited her often in the big plantation house which sat in a beautiful grove of liveoak trees. This house burned to the ground in 1938, but I have a picture of it.

Joseph Carmena was married twice, but had no children. After his death in 1860, a long legal fight ensued. In the meantime, the slaves were freed, and the sale of his possessions brought about

\$10,000.00. At his death in 1860 the slaves were valued at \$116,000.00 and the plantation at \$25,000.00.

Joseph Carmena and his first wife, Theresa Ann Draughn, whom he married in 1829, are buried in Grace Church Cemetery at St. Francisville. These graves are near the side entrance on the left of the church, and as was the custom in those days, are enclosed in a wrought iron fence, the gate of which bears the name of "Joseph Carmena, 1857." Both graves are marked with pink marble head and foot stones, and are wonderfully preserved. The fence has recently been restored and the stones cleaned and braced. They should be there now for another hundred years. I have no record of Joseph's other wife than the mention of her in his succession papers.

In concluding my remarks on Joseph Carmena he was a member of the Masonic Lodge in St. Francisville, and a friend told me that the old minutes of the lodge record that the picture of George Washington hanging in the hall was restored by Joseph Carmena.

CARMENA, Hiram, brother of Joseph and John Carmena. Have no further information on him other than some of the descendants of his daughter, or daughters, live here in Baton Rouge, one of whom is Claude Latil of Latil Stationery Co.

CARMENA, Errace. Found nothing on Errace.

MORGAN, Arthur Carmena, son of Cora Carmena and H. Arthur Morgan, is a sculptor of quite some note and made the statutes of Chief Justice Edward Douglass White, and former governor, Earl K. Long. Arthur was taught by the famous sculptor Gutson Borglum.

OTHER CARMENAS OF NOTE:

CARMENA, from the Archives in Seville, Spain, J. W. Carmena, Jr. found mention of a Carmena that was Governor Granada in 1752.

CARMENA, Ambrose, according to the Encyclopedia Espana, he was a Spanish warrior, who in the War of Independence against the French, attained so many great deeds, that the French finally placed a price on his head, bringing about truly heroic deeds by the provinces of Toledo and Guadalajara. Upon termination of the war he was promoted to a Colonel of the Army, which position he refused, accepting only a small sum of money which he used in straightening out his personal matters. He was born in 1785.

CARMENA, Luis, who was born in Madrid in 1845, and was Chief Military Administrator; also a critic of music and bullfighting. He was cultured and highly educated and wrote several books.

CARMENA, Alonzo, Mayor of Anover de Tajo in the year 1756. (Information concerning the three Carmenas mentioned above was given me by Alberto Diaz Carmena.)

CENSUS RECORDS OF THE CARMENA FAMILY

The first census of the states was not made until 1790. Louisiana was not admitted to the Union until 1812, so it's first census was the one of 1820. Census prior to 1850 listed only the head of family with numbers of males and females.

1820 Census of East Baton Rouge Parish

Romauldo Carmena

- 1 male before 1775, (born)
- 1 male born before 1794-1804
- 1 male born before 1804-1810
- 2 males born before 1810-1820
- 1 female born 1804-1810
- 1 female born 1810-1820.

1830 Census of East Baton Rouge Parish

This census does not list Romauldo Carmena, but he did not die until 1837 or 1838, according to church records.

1840 Census - City of Baton Rouge

Hiram Carmena, brother of John Carmena and son of Romauldo Carmena and Hosafa Carmena. Also brother of Joseph Carmena.

- 1 male born 1790-1800
- 1 male born 1835-1840
- 1 female born 1800-1810
- 1 female born 1820-1825
- 1 female born 1825-1830
- 1 female born 1830-1835
- 1 female born 1835-1840

(Hiram Carmena also shown in 1830 Census)

1850 Census - City of Baton Rouge

Mary Carmena born 1788 in Louisiana
Hiram Carmena born 1828 in Louisiana
Adele Carmena born 1833 in Louisiana
Francis Carmena born 1817 in Spain
Felix Carmena born 1812 in Louisiana
Liza Prendegast born 1851 in Louisiana (the year here must be given in error) Have no record of these two Carmenas.

1830 Census West Feliciana Parish

Joseph Carmena, Brother of John and Hiram Carmena, and son of Romauldo and Hosafa Carmena.

1840 Census West Feliciana Parish

Joseph Carmena

1840 Census - East Baton Rouge Parish

John Carmena, son of Romauldo and Hosafa Carmena and brother of Hiram and Joseph Carmena.

1 male born	1810-1820
1 male born	1825-1830
1 female born	1810-1820
1 female born	1835-1840

1850 Census - East Baton Rouge Parish

John Carmena

John Carmena	born	1812	in Louisiana	
Marcelite	"	"	1822	in Louisiana
Josephine	"	"	1838	in Louisiana
Mary	"	"	1842	in Louisiana
William	"	"	1844	in Louisiana-Bap. record shows William Joseph, 12-3-1844
Louisa	"	"	1845	in Louisiana
Joseph	"	"	1847	in Louisiana-Bap. record shows Emanuel Joseph, 4-17-1850
John	"	"	1850	in Louisiana

1860 Census - East Baton Rouge Parish

John Carmena

John Carmena	born	1808	in Louisiana	
Martha	"	"	1830	in Louisiana
Josephine	"	"	1840	in Louisiana
Mary	"	"	1842	in Louisiana
William	"	"	1845	in Louisiana
Louisa	"	"	1847	in Louisiana
Joseph	"	"	1848	in Louisiana
John	"	"	1850	in Louisiana
Manuel	"	"	1852	in Louisiana
Hiram	"	"	1856	in Louisiana
Benjamin	"	"	1858	in Louisiana-Bap. record shows Benjamin, 9-7-1858

1870 Census - East Baton Rouge Parish

John Carmena	born	1808	in Louisiana	
Martha	"	"	1820	in Louisiana
Joseph	"	"	1840	in Louisiana
Mary	"	"	1846	in Louisiana
William	"	"	1847	in Louisiana
Louisa	"	"	1851	in Louisiana
Joseph	"	"	1849	in Louisiana
John	"	"	1850	in Louisiana
Manuel	"	"	1852	in Louisiana
Hiram	"	"	1856	in Louisiana
Benjamin	"	"	1858	in Louisiana
Simeon	"	"	1862	in Louisiana-Bap. record shows Simeon Fillmore, 2-18-1863

1880 Census - East Baton Rouge Parish

John Carmena	born	1808	in Louisiana
Martha	"	"	1820 in Louisiana
Mary	"	"	1842 in Louisiana
Louisa	"	"	1846 in Louisiana
Simeon	"	"	1866 in Louisiana

These census records were given to me by Charles Owen Johnson of Monroe, Louisiana and Washington, D. C.

In conclusion wish to say that when the records in the Department of Archives and History for the Baton Rouge Diocese (recently established by Bishop Robert E. Tracy) are complete and fully indexed, will try to obtain further information on our old Louisiana ancestors. If I get anything worthwhile, will issue a supplement.

